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## Concerns and Celebrations

We have received word from **Sarah Kim**, co-pastor of **Salim UCC**, Roswell, GA that she is recovering well from successful surgery to prevent reflux, which has affected her voice. She has returned from Korea, where the surgery took place, and is recuperating at home.

We were saddened by the news of the death of **David Menchhofer**, member of **First Congregational UCC, Atlanta**, and retired minister. David is survived by Edna, his wife, and children and grandchildren. The funeral was held on November 5th. David began ministry in Minnesota, and served congregations across the Mid-West and in Pennsylvania, before retiring to Georgia. He was known as a devoted fan of the United Church of Christ, and for an unbroken attendance record at General Synod from the early 1970's until 2005.

**Lawrence Clark**, member of **Brookmeade Congregational UCC**, Nashville, and recently officially retired from ministry has recuperated from surgery with an excellent prognosis for recovery. He has now been called to serve two Presbyterian churches in the Murfreesboro area.

**Diantha Brown**, member of **Pleasant Hill Community UCC**, TN has been called to serve as the pastor of **First United Church of Christ, Belvidere, TN**. She will be succeeding **Dale Barrington**. Diantha will begin in January once she has completed recovered from unanticipated back surgery which she had on November 17th.

**Dick Woodward**, retired from ministry, member of **Midway Congregational UCC**, Midway, GA, has returned to assist the congregation with its current transitions. Dick is remembered as well as having served as chair of the Georgia South Carolina Association Church and Ministry Chair.

We have received news that **Ella Mitchell**, mother of **Elizabeth Clement**, a member of **First Congregational Church, Atlanta**, and staff with The Fund for Theological Education died last week following a brief illness. Elizabeth also represents the Southeast Conference on the Board of the Office of General Ministries of the UCC, and has been a leader in the Conference for years. Dr. Ella Mitchell, with her husband, Henry Mitchell was a noted professor of homiletics, and a vigorous advocate for African-American women in ministry.

**Ronnie Galvin**, member of **Sankofa UCC, Atlanta**, and student in care of the Georgia-South Carolina Association has been call for be the **Minister for Youth of First Congregational UCC, Atlanta**. He began the position on December 1st.

**Joe Ingle**, member of **Brookmeade Congregational UCC**, and called by the Southeast Conference UCC to a ministry on death row in the Nashville area was recently honored by his alma mater, St. Andrews' College, Laurinburg, NC, with a feature article on his ministry in their alumni magazine. Joe is one of the leading advocates against the death penalty in the United States.

We received the news of the death on October 7th of Harold Strite, the father of Martha Rabert, married to **Will Rabert**. Will and Martha are members of **Pleasant Hill Community UCC, TN**. Will is recently retired from the position of Disaster Relief Coordinator of the Southeast Conference.

On September 22nd, **Marvin Morgan**, on the staff of **First Congregational UCC, Atlanta**, and Moderator for General Synod XXVII in 2009 requested of the governor of Georgia to take him into custody and take his life, instead of the life of Troy Davis who has been sentenced to death in Georgia. Marvin wrote that "we are tired of our state killing people... and if this offer helps... well, good".

**Angie Wright**, pastor of **Beloved Community UCC, Birmingham**, writes that she has been invited to submit a sermon as a part of the worship resources accompanying the new still speaking ministry ad campaign "all the people".



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**Annie Neal**, member of **Howard Congregational UCC, Nashville**, and former Moderator of the Southeast Conference, announced her appointment as Professor Emeritus at Meharry Medical School, a high honor for years of service.

**Heidi Schuler**, recently graduated from Candler School of Theology was ordained and installed as Minister for Youth and Families at **Pilgrimage UCC, Marietta, GA**, on November 2nd.

The **Georgia-South Carolina Association** has taken the following actions:  
**Granted licenses for ministry to:**

- **Jeremy Rich** called to **Bethany Congregational UCC, Thomasville, GA**
- **Ben Rose**, member of Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta, for chaplaincy with **Transitions Hospice Care**, Canton, GA

**Renewed the following licenses:**

- **Larry Calbert** for **Rush Memorial UCC, Atlanta**
- **Martha Sue Carter** for **Evergreen Congregational UCC, Beachton, GA**
- **Myrtle Johnson**, for **Evergreen, Beachton**
- **Candace Chellew-Hodge** for **Garden of Grace UCC, Columbia, SC**
- **Andy Sidden**, **Garden of Grace UCC, Columbia, SC**
- **Kathy Robinson Nelson**, **Plymouth Congregational UCC, Charleston SC**

**Granted student in care status to:**

- **Jason Powell**, enrolled at Interdenominational Theological Center, and member at **Rush Memorial UCC, Atlanta**
- **David Sigmund**, Candler School of Theology, and member at **Kirkwood UCC, Atlanta**.

**Renewed student in care status for the following:**

- **Michelle Calderon**, **Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta**
- **Stephanie Crumpton**, **Sankofa UCC, Atlanta**
- **Ellen Dunn**, **Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta**
- **Ronnie Galvin**, **Sankofa UCC, Atlanta**
- **Carolyn Hayford**, **Circular Congregational UCC, Charleston**
- **Karen Mann**, **Central UCC, Atlanta**
- **Kimberly Parker**, **Central UCC, Atlanta**
- **Rachel Small**, **Pilgrimage UCC, Marietta**
- **Marlene Underwood**, **Sankofa UCC, Atlanta**
- **Lesley Raymer**, **Virginia Highland Church, Atlanta**

**Recommended for Ecclesiastical Endorsement:**

- **TJ McGiffert**, chaplain at DeKalb Medical, member **Central Congregation UCC, Atlanta**

**Approved request for Transfer of Ordained Ministerial Standing for:**

- **Ron Bonner**, from Minnesota, member of **First Congregational UCC, Atlanta**
- **Laura Landrum**, from Indiana-Kentucky, pending securing membership in a church in the Association.

The Alabama-Tennessee Association has taken the following actions:

**Granted Privilege of Call to:**

- **Elise Elrod**, Intern at **Holy Trinity Community UCC, Nashville**

**Returned to active ministry:**

- **Kate Morse**, member of **United Church UCC, Huntsville, AL**, and hospital chaplain.

Upon recommendation of the Ministry Task Force of the Southeast Conference, The Board of Directors of the Southeast Conference has called **Anita Hauenstein** and **Robin Lee Fitch** to serve as therapists and pastoral counselors in private practice under the terms of the newly approved guidelines for oversight of pastoral counselors. Anita is a member of **Brookmeade Congregational UCC, Nashville**, and the organizer of the **Nashville Comma Connection**. Robin is a member of **Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta**. Anita and Robin have been granted full ordained ministerial standing in the UCC.

***If there is news that you wish to have shared with others in the Southeast Conference family, please contact Tim at [tdowns@secucc.org](mailto:tdowns@secucc.org).***

*Posted on December 4, 2008*

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